

Pivot



The Magazine of

Broadstone Methodist Church



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Donations
welcomed



CONTENTS

	Page
Easter Encounters	3
Joy and Suffering	4
Rummaging and Sorting	5
Sing to the Lord!	6
Coronation Weekend	7
A Love Story!	7
Holy Week and Easter	10
Celebrating 20 years	11
Anniversary Celebrations Programme	12
Twenty Years On	12
The Craft Fair	13
Anniversary Tree	13
Cost of Living Crisis	14
Corfe Mullen Community Foodbank	14
Eco Living	16
Further Eco News	17
What a Difference!	18
Cafe Church	19
Stepping Stones	19
Christian Aid Week	20
Sudoku Puzzles	21
Children and Families	22
Events and Diary	23

EDITORIAL

In this Easter edition of Pivot, we look at suffering, joy and celebration. Rev Karen and Andrew Williams reflect on how we can reconcile suffering and joy by focusing on God's love, and Tim Spencer explains how the whole Bible is in essence a 'love story'. Music and singing provide an opportunity to express both suffering and joy and we welcome David Hopkins' contribution, in which he writes from the perspective of a Church organist.

The cost of living crisis and the climate catastrophe are resulting in suffering across the world. While both are caused by human actions, they can to some extent be alleviated by actions on our part. Articles on the Corfe Mullen Community Foodbank, our Eco challenges and Christian Aid week provide some ideas for such action. Prayer is important in all contexts of suffering and joy, and we particularly welcome two prayers written by members of our Junior Church, Florence and Ioan.

These prayers will form part of a special compilation of prayers for Broadstone Methodist Church's 20th Anniversary celebrations. It is difficult to believe that the 'new' building has been in use for 20 years, but it is a great opportunity to celebrate throughout the year! An extensive programme has been put together by Terry Millard and Di Skinner as outlined on page 12.

Of course, we are not just celebrating the physical building but all that takes place within it and with our local community. You will find details of different forms of worship in the Church including our Easter services, activities with children and families and much more. We celebrate in worship and in being at the centre of the Broadstone Community.

The Editors wish you a Happy Easter and as ever, appreciate any feedback on Pivot.

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EASTER ENCOUNTERS

REV KAREN JAMES



I wonder how many different encounters with people you have had over the last 40 days? Encounter, as defined by a dictionary, is an unexpected meeting, with a nuance of difficulty or challenge. An encounter can often leave a lasting impression on us even to the point of changing us in some way.

Of course, with access to social media and a global outlook sometimes these encounters can be with people's stories rather than the people directly. Nevertheless, they can provoke us, discomfort us and maybe even energise us into some sort of response.

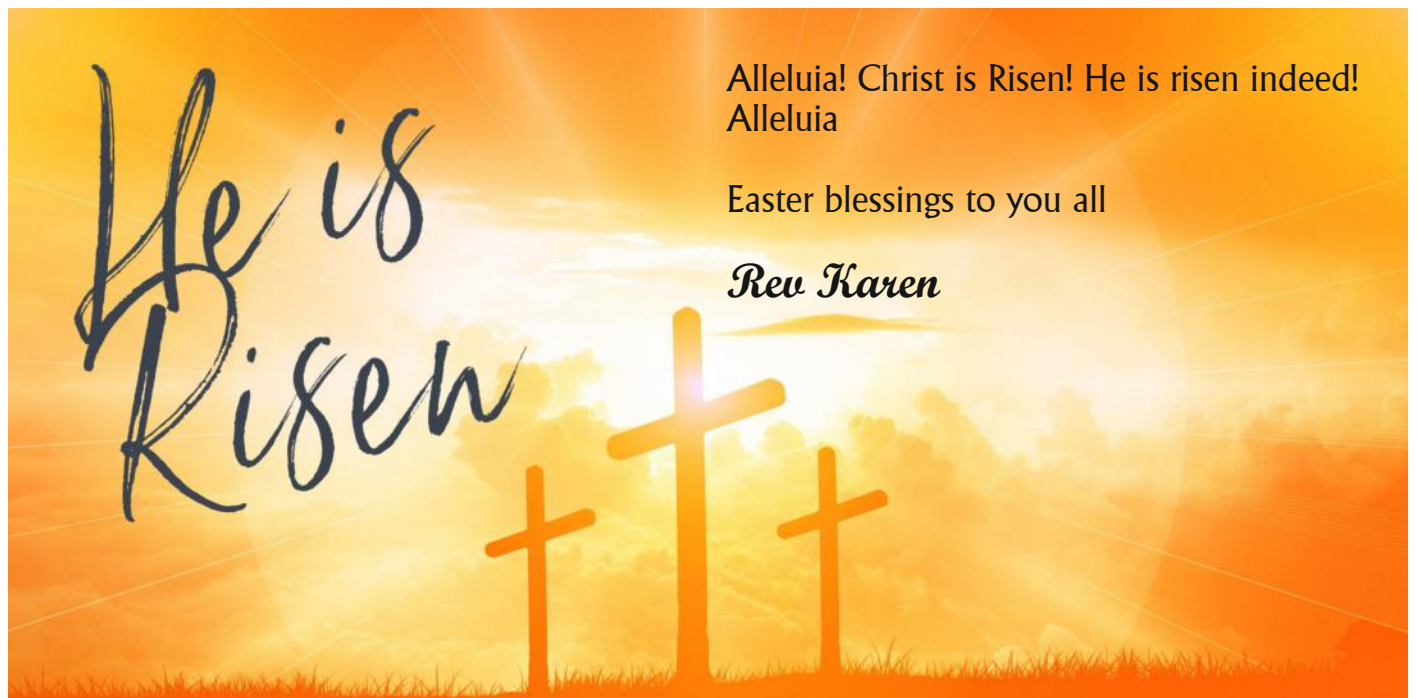
The Bible stories shared throughout Lent have described some of the encounters that people from all walks of life had with Jesus and the transformation it brought about for them. Not necessarily in material terms, but in

their recognition and assurance in who Jesus was and is. The Christ, the Anointed One, God who walked on earth among us, sharing in every aspect of our lives -the good and the bad, and who gave his life in love for all of us. The opportunity for an encounter with Jesus seemed to end abruptly with his death on a cross until that third day as the women approached the tomb.

Open, empty, with the wrappings to one side.

In the midst of their confusion and despair – they encountered Jesus again – The Risen Christ.

And so we celebrate this Easter season, with thanks and acknowledgement for Jesus' sacrifice made on our behalf and the joy that we all can expect as we encounter Jesus.



Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia

Easter blessings to you all

Rev Karen

JOY AND SUFFERING

A Reflection

ANDREW WILLIAMS



Andrew introduces himself : *A Presbyterian father, Anglican mother, Catholic wife, Vineyard daughter* – a rich heritage which now as a Catholic myself allows me, from my URC eldership, the continuing joy of leading URC, Baptist and most recently Broadstone Methodist worship. As a volunteer at Forest Holme, it is wonderful to be junior to everyone including four ex-pupils from my 16 years at Corfe Hills, as I learn to journey with individuals and their loved ones from any and every spiritual background.

Do you find yourself avoiding the news these days? I think I am becoming a news ostrich: headlines only please! Was it global heating? the refugee crisis? the pandemic? Ukraine? cost of living? the earthquake? I guess it's been a gradual thing, a sense of being overwhelmed by suffering that is way beyond my capacity to help – other than 'paying and praying'.

What are we Christians to make of this issue of suffering? Where do we find joy in the pain we witness everywhere?

Since September I have been privileged to spend three mornings each week as a chaplaincy volunteer in the oncology wards of Poole hospital and principally in our hospice, Forest Holme. The medical teams are saints; the chaplaincy role is to complement theirs by offering "spiritual care". Unsurprisingly, the question of suffering, and how it can be allowed by a loving God, is never far away – spoken or unspoken. Easy answers can make things worse: better to accept it is mystery. What is certain is that humans throughout the ages have asked the

question - in their own pain or in their grief for others.

"I am a rock, I am an island" sang Simon and Garfunkel "and a rock feels no pain; and an island never cries". We suffer because we do feel, we do care, we do love one another. In hospital I daily witness overwhelming compassion and love, and if I had to choose a world without suffering but without love, I'd settle for what we've got. Love, forgiving, self-sacrificing love, is the most creative force on our planet.

'Jesus came not to change God's mind about humanity, but to change humanity's mind about God.' Our God is not the vengeful demander of a blood sacrifice but the absolute opposite - a man nailed to a cross, forgiving his torturers, sharing our pain – love which no grave can imprison.

So, I find myself falling back time and again on 1 John:4 "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." Whoever loves! That means anyone, whatever their faith or none. Jesus' love is stronger than death – this is the joyful Easter message: that the kingdom of heaven, of God's love, is ours here and now - and for eternity.



RUMMAGING AND SORTING

REV ELIZABETH RUNDLE



Recently I've been doing quite a lot of travelling. My travelling has taken me down that universal route – Memory Lane. Outwardly I have spent the darker, shorter days in 'sorting' and throwing much 'stuff' in the bin. Inwardly it has been a joy to wallow in visits into the past with events and cherished people long gone. My treasures will only be someone else's junk! However, these trips down the long winding road of my life, far from being a maudlin and stagnant exercise, have given me a bright and positive attitude for 2023 – and beyond.

With all that is going on in the world that may sound trite and unrealistic. So, let me explain.

Discovering one of my great, great grandmothers died 'a pauper on the Parish' has made me SO grateful at how I live today. Remembering visits to children in hospital with rheumatoid arthritis, I give thanks to God for my healthy life. Recalling the faithfulness of old ladies in the Cornish chapels whose husbands had been gassed in the 1914-18 World War gives me renewed admiration for the courage in human spirits. Life is our fragile, daily, daily miracle.



Journeying through my files, photos, slides and book shelves has brought into focus what the everyday 'busyness' of life tends to mask – just how much we are shaped, grow (or shrink) by our experiences. How much we are moulded by the nurture and guidance of parents, the love and encouragement we find in marriage and from friends. How the places in which we have lived and worked make lasting impressions upon our attitudes. I wish the younger me had realized the ways those interests, experiences and wise words would go on to colour and enrich my whole life. Only in hindsight do we truly appreciate these things and only, sadly, when we are too far from those years to say 'Thank you'.

In one clearing out mood there were sundry programmes and leaflets to sort. I came across an event I had totally forgotten. It was one of those 'Evenings with...' when the former opera singer, and now TV personality, Lesley Garrett said (and I had scribbled this on the programme), 'Music is only music when it is performed'. Yes, music is but a jumble of marks on a page which mean nothing until the musician, singer or instrumentalist, brings those marks to life. Surely, it's the same with our Christian faith. All the Bibles in the world are a mere jumble of ink marks until willing hearts bring God's message alive through justice, peace and love.

Maybe you too have done some rummaging over the winter. As the writer of Ecclesiastes 3:1 wrote, 'There is a time to keep and a time to throw away'.

I'm doing my best!

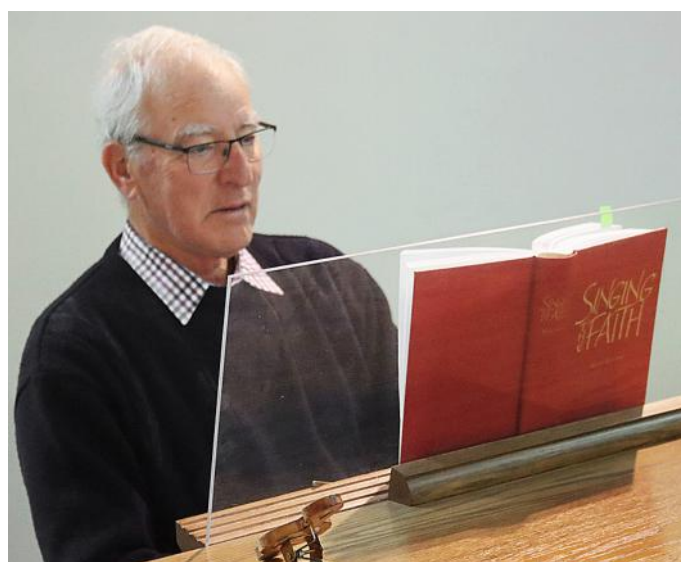
SING TO THE LORD

DAVID HOPKINS

I was chatting to Christine and Annette and saying how well I think the congregation here sings and the suggestion was made that perhaps I should put 'pen to paper' or more accurately, 'fingers to keyboard'. Yes – let me state plainly, I do think the singing at Broadstone Methodist Church is excellent and it is a pleasure to accompany it. I've accompanied church services for more decades than I want to admit and congregational singing here is among the best I have experienced. Well done and thank you!

What makes for good singing? I'm not particularly well qualified to judge but obviously hitting the right notes and keeping the rhythm of whatever is being sung are both fundamental but it's about more than that. As I once heard a choral director say sharply to his choir, 'Yes, yes, you're singing the right notes in the right rhythm – **now make music!**'

And yes, making musical expression to fit the words being sung, whether praise, prayer, laughter, sorrow, intercessions for others, whatever the mood or sensitivity, when it all



comes together it enriches our worship and our awareness of God's presence. Yet I sense there is something else also at work in singing well together. That is a sub-conscious sense of being with each other and the contribution being made by others; we're not competing with each other, not trying to outdo each other, we're blending in with each other and it is this, I think, that creates that great sense of musical 'ensemble' – togetherness. I'm not sure many of you noticed, but one morning some months ago I led the first line of a verse of a quiet devotional hymn you were singing well and without much forethought stopped playing. You sang unaccompanied and I resumed at the final phrase. It was enchanting to hear and no-one faltered for a second!

I think this is God-given talent. You have it. Nurture it. I do enjoy it.

In contrast I recall playing as a guest at a church some years ago where the new minister was trying to re-shape the very conventional order of worship and music. Some of the choir decided change was bad and quite deliberately sang the hymns at a very slow pace to make their point! It was an absurd act of choral terrorism! Not much sense of 'ensemble' there at all. Very sad!

I had a slightly odd introduction to this church. My wife and I relocated to Broadstone from the North West in 2015 to be nearer our families. Both retired, we realised we'd have to work hard to make new friends and 'grow roots'. Amongst other things, we joined the excellent Broadstone Community Choir which practices here on



Tuesdays. Wandering around during the interval one evening I noticed the organ was identical to one I had played occasionally at a church in Liverpool where my late father was then the vicar – a two-manual ‘Allen Computer Organ’. I asked David Spracklen if I could ‘have a go’ and we came to an arrangement where I would help out roughly once a month; for me the rest is pleasurable history.

Organists and Choral Leaders have odd tales to tell: a friend of mine had the Christmas Carol Service nicely sorted. A boy chorister was to sing ‘Once in Royal David’s City’ unaccompanied and by candlelight in the festive tradition. My friend waved his baton and the lad began beautifully with the correct words but to the tune of ‘Hark the Herald Angels Sing’! Yes – it can work but it’s not easy. Try it in the bath. The choirmaster pressed the ‘reset button’ as it were and recommenced with the soloist who performed correctly and beautifully.

My most odd incident was playing in a Methodist Church in Loughborough. I was new and the visiting preacher chose an opening hymn that was completely unknown

to me and as it turned out, also to the congregation. Furthermore the metrical arrangement of the verses was classed as ‘irregular’ meaning there is no tune to fit other than the one set. I played the opening lines of the set tune during which the congregation decided the tune was one they knew! (It was a bit like a well-known hymn but it was not!). So they sang what they thought fitted. Unfortunately, the tune they tried to sing had eight lines and the one I was playing had six and of course none of the phrases fitted anything due to the ‘irregular’ metre. It was a complete shambles! To his eternal credit after two verses the preacher held up his hands and in what I now describe as a fabulous ‘Morecambe and Wise’ turn of phrase said ‘I think we’ll pause for a moment to give the organist a chance to find the tune you’ve chosen for him!’

We continued with the set tune; I learned, they learned but it wasn’t an auspicious start to the day’s worship!

Thank you for your warm friendship and fellowship.

Best wishes

CORONATION Weekend



A Celebratory Coronation Lunch will be held on Sunday 7 May at Broadstone Methodist Church.

Watch out for further details!

Monday 8 May (which will be an extra Bank Holiday) has been designated as a day for volunteering by King Charles.

Would you be prepared to volunteer to help with tasks around the church grounds? For example, cleaning and painting the notice boards, painting the ‘cycle racks’, some gardening.

Please let Annette Brooke know if you would be prepared to join a group. Email annettebrooke4@gmail.com

A LOVE STORY!

TIM SPENCER expresses his understanding



The Bible is a love story; not of romantic love (unless you read Song of Songs) but of divine love. It's the story of God's love for Israel, for the rest of the world and for you and me. The Bible contains over 600 references to love, eg 'God is Love', says 1 John 4:16. Really? That's a bit like saying, 'it's rather a long way from here to a far distant galaxy'.

Think of the universe, think of the vast expanse of a universe that has been expanding for 13.7 billion years and isn't yet showing any sign of slowing down. Do you believe God made that? Me too. Never mind the how or when or how long it took or how you interpret the six days of creation in Genesis, the point is, it was God's idea and his fantastic awesome power brought it about. God's love is big enough to encompass all that and yet that same love reaches you and me. For the Christian, God has called you by name, he knows you intimately, warts and all, he loves you and that same God doesn't make mistakes.

In Exodus, God heard Israel's cry of oppression and had compassion. He rescued Israel, chose them as his people and made a covenant with them. But Israel did not always remain faithful to the Covenant and to their God. Yet even though they provoked God to anger (sometimes by turning to false gods) the one true God continued to seek Israel and called them to turn back to him.

Return, faithless people' declares the Lord, 'for I am your husband. I will choose you' (Jeremiah 3:14).

So God chooses Israel, even when Israel hasn't always chosen God. We can see in this that God's love is at times unrequited. At one point he issues a certificate of divorce to Israel. 'I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries' (Jeremiah 3:8).

The issue here was Israel's unfaithfulness to God and her idolatry (see Jeremiah 3:13). Yet even then the greater power is God's love and forgiveness. In the same chapter we read "Return, faithless Israel', declares the Lord, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am faithful', declares the Lord" (Jeremiah 3:11).

Here we see God's love for Israel. Even though Israel has been unfaithful, God wants her back asking her to return. Notice "I am faithful". This whole divine relationship hangs on God's faithfulness, even when Israel has fallen short. This theme continues into the NT and on a personal level. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. What was the Lord's response? He forgave Peter and gave him a great ministry which is told in Acts. So, again, we see that God's love is the driving force on which we depend.

John's Gospel is perhaps the most compelling description of love that's ever been written. It contains that famous verse that God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. This can be read as a statement of fact. Almost like a contract of love; you believe in The Son of God, therefore you have eternal life. Good! But John goes into more detail. As we

approach Easter, we often think of the sacrifice Jesus made at Calvary. But chapter 14 lets us into the inner circle of The Lord's relationship with his disciples. Jesus knew that within hours, he was facing crucifixion and yet spent those precious hours of the evening before comforting his disciples, teaching them of the love of God and promising the Holy Spirit, the counsellor, who would also bring God's love and strength to the believers. Jesus then showed the greatest act of love by laying down his life for his friends. He didn't merely talk about love, he followed through with it, all the way to the cross. Why the cross? To cancel sin, to satisfy justice and to earn salvation for us who cannot earn it ourselves. right? Yes to all of that but recently I have come to think that another aspect of the cross could be that words alone can never tell of God's love.

But God didn't leave it there. He sent his Holy Spirit just as Jesus promised. This is the Spirit who shows us God's love and the joy that goes with it and interprets the Bible for us. "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Romans 5:5

So God came looking for us. He understood that we could never reach him by our own efforts so He made a way, by His son, by the cross and by The Holy Spirit.



"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." Revelation 3:20

Having touched on the biggest understatement in The Bible (God is love) now let's think about what is possibly one of the scariest "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34. There are two ways of reading this. As I have loved you.... Because I have loved you, you are to love one another. Or possibly, you are to love one another in the way that I have loved you.

The God's Word Translation puts it "Love each other in the same way that I have loved you". The Legacy Standard Bible puts it "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, *even* as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (my emphasis).

Seriously? How? I don't think I have the capacity to love as Jesus loves, i.e. as God loves. How can I even begin? My best effort would barely scratch the surface. Yet we know we can love God because He loved us first and with his help, his grace and his immense love, we can take it a step at a time. Later in the New Testament we are given the answer to this in 1 Thessalonians 4:9 "Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other."

So it is God himself who teaches us to love how he wants us to love. Perhaps we don't need much help to love our earthly family (assuming they're nice to us) but to love the church, those within the church, our heavenly family of believers, we are taught by God and we love because God loved us first.

Back to John's Gospel. When the Lord promises the Holy Spirit, he tells his disciples: "The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him."

So God loves the world but the world just isn't ready for that.

The world isn't looking for that sort of relationship right now.

If only the world knew Him!

HOLY WEEK and EASTER



In Holy Week and Easter we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 6 April at 7.30pm AGAPE MEAL and HOLY COMMUNION

Sign up on the list on the Notice Board to book a place



GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Good Friday marks the crucifixion of Jesus, and we reflect on the ultimate price that He paid to redeem our sins.

Churches Together in Broadstone will be leading a Walk of Witness, on Good Friday, 7 April. We will gather outside the United Reformed Church at 10.00am and use a dramatised narrative with assigned people reading parts. We will process around the central area of Broadstone with a cross bearer leading the way, ending at Broadstone

Methodist Church. We have several stops to continue reading our script. People are welcome to join us for all or part of this experience.

Now that many shops are open on Good Friday, Broadstone Centre is quite busy and last year we were pleased that numbers participating snowballed as we processed.

At approximately 10.45am there will be a short service inside Broadstone Methodist Church, led by Rev Helen Bailey and Rev Andy Hall, to which all are welcome. So, there are options: join part of the procession, join all the procession and/or attend a service inside the Church.

In addition, St John's Church is holding a service at 2.00–3.00pm, *The Last Hour at the Cross*.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP with HOLY COMMUNION

9 April at 10.30am

Celebrant: Rev Linda Chester



CELEBRATING 2003 20 YEARS 2023



As many of you will remember, twenty-five years ago thoughts of entering a new Millennium were on many people's minds, and many organisations and individuals began making plans for what they would aim to achieve in the early 2000s. Broadstone Methodist Church, under the guidance of our minister, Rev Paul Mears, did just that in 1997; and after a number of vision days, we agreed that our building, part of which was the original chapel of 1890, was looking tired and needed significant upgrading and refurbishment.

We approached Methodist Church property experts to get some advice on how we should go about this; but, to our consternation, they were unanimous in recommending a much more radical approach, of demolishing the existing premises and building an entirely new church with a more prominent presence on the Broadway.

It took a while, as you can imagine, for this daunting proposal to be assessed and debated amongst our congregation. For one thing, it was likely to cost well over a million pounds – and

we had been concerned about how we could possibly raise just a few hundred thousand pounds for the upgrading project originally suggested.

But gradually we developed the faith that this was what God wanted us to do, and by 1999 we had agreed to go ahead.

The next four years involved a lot of people generously donating huge amounts of time and money to bring this vision to fruition. In early 2002 demolition of the old church began, and in December 2003, we rejoiced that we were able to open the new building with a Service of Worship led by Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths.

With the completion of the building work, the Church has grown over the last twenty years, both spiritually and in engagement with our local community. Even with the setbacks of the pandemic we have much to celebrate in this Anniversary Year. Sadly, many of those who made major contributions to this achievement aren't with us any longer, but, for those of us who are, the twenty-year anniversary is a cause for great thankfulness.

Anniversary Celebrations

PROGRAMME

Saturday 11th March
Craft Fair

Saturday 1st April
Quiz and Fish and Chips

Tuesday 16th May
Visit to Exbury Gardens

Saturday 17th June
Boat Trip to Wareham

Sunday 23rd July
Garden Party and challenge

Sunday 20th August
Treasure Hunt around Broadstone

Saturday 23rd September
Evening Entertainment

Sunday 1st October
Harvest Service
and meal
20 Acts of Kindness

Sunday 19th November
Church Anniversary Service
and lunch

TWENTY YEARS ON

As you can see from the list on the left, Di Skinner and Terry Millard have, with the help of Pam Preston, Claire Errington and many other volunteers, put together a great programme of events to celebrate this year of our 20th Anniversary. More details of all these events and how to join in them are on the notice boards in the coffee lounge, or can be obtained from Di and Terry.

There is a report on the very successful Craft Fair, which has already been held, on page 13. The Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper will be taking place as this edition of Pivot goes to the press.

The programme for the Entertainment on 23 September includes 'Murder on the Swanage Express' – more details later!

Cafe Church in October (date yet to be fixed) will be taking a different perspective on the celebrations by concentrating our thoughts on the next twenty years and what they may bring for us all.

The climax of the celebrations will be our Church Anniversary Service of Worship on Sunday 19 November, when the preacher will be the Rev Andrew de Ville, the Chair of the Southampton District of the Methodist Church, followed by an anniversary lunch.

In addition to all these events, Di and Terry still have some anniversary cards (made by Hazel), pens and T-shirts available for sale. They hope later in the year to publish an updated church history, as well as a book of anniversary prayers from the members of our congregation. As a taster of this, we've included prayer contributions from Florence and Ioan, two members of our Junior Church, here:

Florence

We praise you Lord for the gift of peace.

We thank you Lord for our security and safety.

We pray for all those who are worried or suffering.

Amen

Ioan

Thank you Jesus, that like me you had a family who loved you as you grew up.

We praise you for all the scientists who look after the wonderful natural world.

We pray you will help us learn to always be kind and helpful. Amen

We very much hope that you can join in with all these activities to make this a memorable year in the life of our church.

THE CRAFT FAIR

The amount of money raised was around £900.

A big thank you to Terry Millard and Di Skinner (the organisers), everybody who helped in so many ways and our stallholders.

Our *Church Knit and Natter Group* had an impressive and extensive display (as can be seen in the photograph on the right) of all the many wonderful items they have



produced in their group, which meets on Monday mornings in the Church Sanctuary.

A wide range of crafts and activities was on offer and its success was marked with many people coming into the Church for the first time.



ANNIVERSARY TREE! MIKE BROOKE

Some time ago I received a request to research and organise the planting of a tree to celebrate the 20th Anniversary. Widespread research and consultation has certainly taken place but the project has 'grown'! It has become clear that after 20 years, the plants and shrubs to the front of the Church need considerable pruning and the central tree needs to be removed. It is quite possible we will have drought conditions in the summer and so water butts will be installed shortly. The long-term aim is to provide colour throughout the year and to contribute to Broadstone in Bloom.

The Anniversary Tree has grown into an Anniversary Garden! This will include two new dwarf trees.



The Garden before alterations and tree-planting are begun

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

We are all aware of the impact of rising prices on our lives but clearly lower – income families are being hit very hard. Although the rate of inflation is expected to fall, prices are still rising, albeit at a slower rate, putting even more pressure on our budgets.

Recently, a researcher at the Resolution Foundation, has said: “Britain is only at the mid-point of a two-year income squeeze, which is set to leave typical families £2,100 worse off. The crisis is already taking its toll

on families, with over six million adults reporting they are going hungry as a result. Low-income families have been hit hardest by soaring energy bills and food prices and are most likely to have seen both their financial circumstances and their health deteriorate.

This crisis is hitting families across the country, and one consequence is that all Foodbanks are receiving more and more requests for help. Our local Foodbanks are no exceptions and below is the ‘story’ of Corfe Mullen Foodbank.

CORFE MULLEN COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

ANNETTE BROOKE

The food donations made at Broadstone Methodist Church are combined with those from other Broadstone Churches and are taken to either Corfe Mullen Community Foodbank or Poole Foodbank by members of St John’s Church. You may recall that last December, the Christmas Parade organisers encouraged people to donate food to Father Christmas, which was then passed to Corfe Mullen Community Foodbank.

Corfe Mullen Community Foodbank is based at St Nicholas’ Church, Corfe Mullen and in November this year will reach its 10th Anniversary. In other contexts, we would be celebrating such an anniversary and the growth of activity in an organisation. However, it is an opportunity to say thank you to the people who provide this invaluable service to help people in crisis.

I recently met Tracie Jackson, the co-ordinator, to find out more about the service.



Tracie told me how she went along to an initial meeting not knowing much about Foodbanks. Over time, and to her surprise, she became the co-ordinator! She was mentored by Rev Robert Jones, who was a key force in setting up and running the Wimborne Foodbank. Corfe Mullen Community Foodbank has some rather special characteristics, it relies entirely on volunteers, including Tracie, and it is independent of large organisations such as Faithworks or the Trussell Trust. The decision to be independent was made by the Church to retain the flexibility to help people in crisis who may not meet particular criteria. The Foodbank is open throughout the year, Wednesdays and Fridays (apart from Good Friday), 10am to 12noon. Initially there were just a couple of volunteers, now Tracie manages a team of 9. It was very busy throughout the pandemic and Tracie found herself working 20 to 30 hours a week, which has now settled down to about 10 hours per week. Typically, a family can visit a foodbank three times in a 6 month period. This last year has seen 320 family bags distributed reaching over 1000 people. The foodbank encourages families to select from a standard crate of food, which should provide 3 meals a day for 3 days for a family



of four. This self-service method reduces waste of unwanted items, and easily caters for replacements. A 'crisis' might occur for all sorts of reasons; an example might be where a family is just coping and then there is an unexpected large bill.

This Foodbank does not have all the add on services provided directly to clients as at larger Foodbanks but is able to provide a 'listening ear' and to 'signpost' people to other agencies for support and help. Community links are strong. Tracie liaises closely with local schools and is able to provide food bags where needs are identified. The local allotment association donates surplus products in the summer. There is a possibility that the CAB might provide a mobile service adjacent to the foodbank during its hours of operation. Recipe bags and activity bags are also provided during the school holidays.

With ever growing needs, more donations are required. Food items can be placed in the collection box at Broadstone Methodist Church or a monetary donation can be made by Cheque, to be made payable to 'Corfe Mullen PCC' ref: FOODBANK. Or online by BACS Account number: 02328483 Sort Code: 30 96 73 Reference: FOODBANK.



ECO LIVING: FURTHER REFLECTIONS

MIKE BROOKE



We mourned, prayed, and made donations for those affected by the recent earthquake on the Turkish/Syrian border but such catastrophes quickly fall out of the news. It is, however, worth reflecting on a phrase used by one TV commentator. 'This is Nature at its worst and Humanity at its best'. Yes, the response and support from across the world was impressive, as it often is when areas of the world, especially those less well off, experience flooding, drought, violent storms, or earthquakes. Would the consequences be so great if buildings were constructed in a resilient way, or farming techniques didn't damage the soil or clear the vegetation? Many 'natural' events are now occurring more frequently and more severely due to climate change accelerated by human activity. In the UK we are seeing more severe floods, homes continue to be built in flood plains, and so the impacts of 'nature' become more severe. More intense droughts, in countries such as Malawi, wildfires across Europe and Australia as well as the USA, are a consequence of man induced Climate Change which is now almost impossible to reverse. It is rapidly becoming a matter of adaptation rather than prevention. Life can become more manageable if we make appropriate changes to the way we live but this isn't always easy as we are people of habit and generally don't like change. I confess there are certain adaptations to my lifestyle that I should be making but am having difficulty achieving. First and foremost is making the necessary changes to my travel habits. Even though I have my free bus pass I

seldom use a bus in the Poole-Bournemouth area, though I am more than happy to use park and ride facilities in Winchester and Oxford. They are extremely efficient and very cost effective. I have a bike, but it seldom gets used. I must pump up the tyres each time I take it on an outing, and I find it difficult to make the effort even though I should. The comfort and convenience of my car is all too alluring and, currently, not only is petrol carbon based but the exhaust products are pollutants which contribute to climate change. An electric car is on my wish list! I have recently become more of a climate activist, though I haven't gone so far as to glue myself to the road yet. I am a firm believer in a circular economy, the abandoning of oil and gas-based energy supplies and a more rapid transition to the use of renewables. To this end I have taken part in several climate change/anti oil demonstrations in Bournemouth. I also supported the Climate and Ecological Emergency motion submitted to BCP council in 2019. This means climate change should be at the heart of all major policy decisions. Unfortunately, not only does BCP council have a long way to go before that is achieved, so do the Governments of most countries. But if we all pull together, we can lead the way and make a big difference. Now Broadstone Methodist Church has gained a bronze Eco-Church award, we can aim higher and play a bigger part in the 'fight back'. We are currently working on a land management plan and hope that by the time



Dragonfly 'pond', Dunyeats Hill Nature Reserve, Summer 2022

this Pivot is published there will be visible changes on the land to the front of the church and that plans will be set out for medium term and longer term objectives for land at the rear. We hold meetings with Eco groups from the other Churches in Broadstone so that we can share information and support one another. The Southampton District of the Methodist Church, of which we are part, is seeking to gain a bronze Eco District Award and in the process will be giving strong leadership. The more we all work together the more we can achieve to protect the precious gifts of creation.

FURTHER ECO NEWS

ANNETTE AND MIKE BROOKE

A new 20 room hotel will be sited on Broadstone Methodist Church land! Each room will be fully furnished and will be particularly suitable for bugs and creepy crawlies! This is the result of another Anniversary project – a bug hotel! Watch this space for full occupancy! After some months the bird feeders in the car park are beginning to be well visited, please do make a note of any birds that you see there.



ECO EVENTS DIARY

Saturday 15 April

Mini-Environmental Fair

at the front of Broadstone Methodist Church, 10.00am to 12noon.

This will include a plant sale raising funds for Broadstone in Bloom, a Dorset Wildlife Trust information stand and an Eco Churches Together in Broadstone stand. The objectives are to improve CTIB engagement with the community on environmental issues, promote action to tackle climate change and to protect and enhance our local environment.

Saturday 22 April

World Earth Day

provides an opportunity to include an environmental message in our Sunday morning service, on 23 April.

Sunday 4 June

Creation Care (Green) Communion

We will be celebrating this special Communion with Rev Tom and Mrs Christine Stuckey at our morning service.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

REV LINDA CHESTER



At last, after some bitter winds and rain, Spring has arrived; a time of year I really enjoy. I marvel at the vibrant, delicate spring flowers as they boldly emerge after the long, cold winter. Most days throughout the year I walk my dog, Barney, on Canford Heath. Inevitably, I meet the same people around the same time most days and we exchange greetings as our dogs 'meet and greet'; a hasty word when it's cold and wet!

But as soon as March begins, it's a delight to hear the birdsong morning and evening and to glimpse the first sign of snowdrops, then watch the yellow and purple crocuses appear. I eagerly await that first 'spring green' as the tiny leaves begin to grow and tightly folded buds unfold. Our spirit lifts after the darkness and grey of winter.

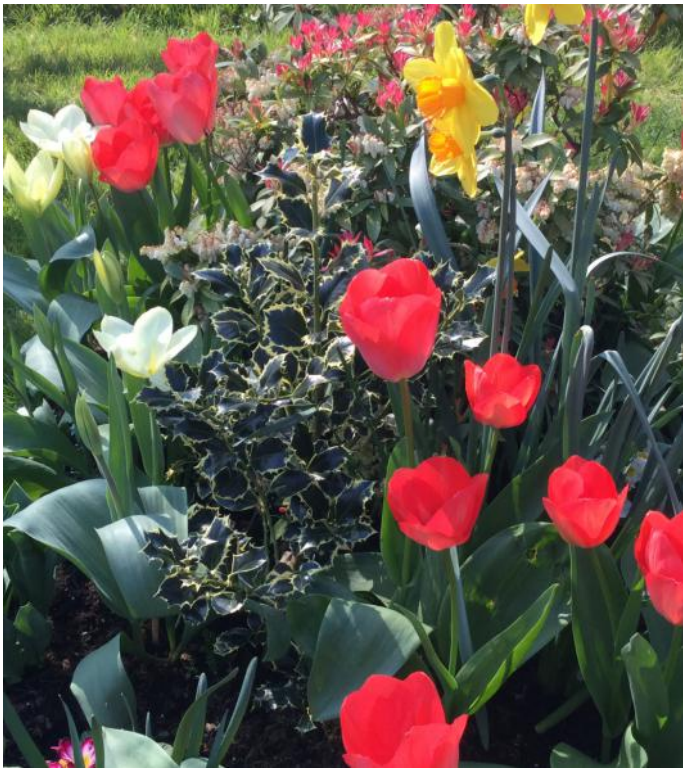
I've noticed a difference in the High Street as people smile and linger to talk in the weak sunshine, and even the cold-water swimmers at Sandbanks pause to speak as Barney and I



walk along the seashore at Sandbanks. What a difference it makes when the sun is shining.

We are about to celebrate Easter. For me, it's the central point of the Christian year. Jesus Christ, Son of God, conquering sin and death. God's love poured out to each one of us. The disciples waited with heavy hearts, distraught and terrified behind locked doors. Would one of them be next? They had witnessed the unthinkable; Jesus their Master and friend cruelly put to death by Crucifixion. Then suddenly, just hours later, the Risen Christ was actually there with them saying, "Peace be with you." (John 20 :19-31) 'Shalom' the presence of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, affirmation which they desperately needed. What a difference that appearance meant, the reality of Jesus' presence. Each of them experienced it, something real and tangible. Something they would never forget.





As a teenager, meeting in a house-group on a Friday evening, one of my favourite songs we learnt had a chorus:

***“He Lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and He talks with me,
along life`s narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart.
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.”***

A.H.Ackley (1887- 1960)

Fifty years on (*can that really be possible?*), this chorus still expresses my thoughts and experience.

Even through spring and summer we may face the ‘bitter winds’ of winter as we face the normal ups and downs of life. But let us always hold on to the tremendous message of Easter. Let us encourage each other, as we journey forward. Just as the early disciples experienced the presence of the Living Christ, so we today experience the presence of the Risen Christ as He walks with us, sharing our joys and sorrows.

What a difference it makes to us when the SUN is shining. What a difference it makes when the SON is shining! Let us allow Christ’s shafts of light to touch us and affirm us every day through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Broadstone
Methodist
Church

The first Cafe Church in 2023 was a well-attended Churches Together in Broadstone (CTiB) event. The Sanctuary was set out in cafe style, tea and cakes were served, and the discussion commenced. The topic was Unity and Peace, and this was looked at from a personal, community, national and international level. Opening presentations were given by Deacon Nick Johnson (St Anthony’s), Rev Helen Bailey (St John’s), Rev Andy Hall (URC) and Rev Karen James (BMC).

The next Cafe Church will be on Sunday 21 May starting at 4.30pm with tea and cakes in the coffee lounge. The topic will be thankfulness and will involve plenty of discussion! All are welcome.

It is expected that there will be fewer Cafe Church events this year as we have a very busy 20th Anniversary programme. However, as part of that programme there will be a special Cafe Church in October, looking at the 20 years ahead.

STEPPING STONES

People with memory loss, their carers and older people who live by themselves are invited to ‘drop in’ for tea and cakes, plenty of chat, and a choice of activities. Sessions are held on the second Friday of every month, 2.30 - 4pm, in the coffee lounge at Broadstone Methodist Church. In January and February the activities included a variety of quizzes, adult colouring and carpet bowls. In March, we welcomed Curly the Busker who offered an amazing repertoire of songs from the 50’s and 60’s with plenty of audience participation.

We currently have a few spare spaces, please contact Annette Brooke for further details, tel. 01202 696523 or e mail annettebrooke4@gmail.com



Christian Aid

Week 14-20 May 2023

Christian Aid is a charity which works with 700 local organisations in around 50 countries in the world. It helps poor communities and enables them to deal with hardships, including climate change and the possible threat of natural disasters. Alongside this, Christian Aid also helps with the education, sanitation, health, and reconciliation of certain communities.

This year Christian Aid Week will look at the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common

because of the changing climate. The impact on the world population is great, as it means that millions of people around the world struggle to get the food and water that they need. There is a focus on farmers in Malawi who are being helped to transform their livelihoods using 'the humble but mighty pigeon pea': a drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, delicious crop.

Christian Aid provides several case studies to illustrate the issues. Jen and Esther are both farmers in Malawi. Jen has hardworking boys who have both gained

places at top colleges – but she cannot afford to send them both. She barely makes a living from her land despite working very hard. Soaring costs of food, fuel, fertiliser, school uniform and school fees are keeping her family in poverty. Jen needs help to plant good quality seeds and to sell her crop for the best price possible. For 10 years, Esther grew pigeon peas on her farm, but she could never secure a fair price for her crop. In 2021, Cyclone Ana washed away her crops and left her feeling desperate. She then joined a pea programme run by a local partner of Christian Aid and began selling as part of a co-operative. She was able to get a much fairer price for her crops and achieve more financial stability. She has been able to support her daughters in education and work, acquire a herd of 13 goats, provide dry storage for her pigeon peas, and buy a sewing machine. Through the cooperative and its equipment, Esther can bake pigeon pea flour bread and boost her income further.

Your donations and prayers will help farmers like Jen and Esther overcome the difficulties they face and build a better future.

During Christian Aid Week there will be envelopes and collecting boxes available at Broadstone Methodist Church

or donations may be made online at any time



ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



JUNIOR CHURCH

Children are welcome to our Sunday morning services.

They join in the first part of the service and then go out to their own sessions where they take part in activities related to a bible passage.

WENDY HOUSE

Our popular Wendy House toddler group (for babies and toddlers up to 3+ and their parent or carer) has restarted. It runs every Thursday, in term time, from 10am to 11.30am.



Story Time

THIRSTY THURSDAY

For school age children with a parent or carer, every Thursday in term time, after school until 4.15pm.

Refreshments, football, crafts, Godly play, and recently, bird feeding and bulb planting.



Meets once during each school holiday.

All ages welcome with an accompanying parent or carer.

The next one is on **Thursday 13 April, 10am to 12.30pm**

Light lunch included.

Do come and join us at the Church for crafts and related activities.

For Wendy House, Thirsty Thursday, and Messy Church, please enter by the back entrance of the Church from the car park. For the other events please use either entrance.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Weekly at 10.30am

(Holy Communion as announced)

with Junior Church and
Crèche at the same time

All are welcome

Tea and Coffee served after the Service

We also offer

Evening Worship

on Sunday at 6.00pm on Zoom

and a

Written and Recorded Service

is available each week

Contact the Church Office for details

Tel: 01202 600696

Email: methodistchurch1@btinternet.com

Broadstone Methodist Church

COFFEE LOUNGE

for Fellowship and Refreshments

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday and Saturday each week**

apart from Bank Holidays

10.00am–12.00 noon

We look forward to seeing you and enjoying
chatting over a cuppa!

Bible Study on Zoom

Wednesdays at 7.30pm

'Talking of God with Others'

Details of Dates and Zoom link
from Deacon Gill Judge or Joan Jackson.

Knit & Natter

Mondays 10.00am – 12 noon
in the Sanctuary

Badminton Group

Mondays from 7.30–9.30pm

in the Bradbury Hall

Thursday Afternoon Group

2.30–4.30pm

in the Coffee Lounge

Currently monthly on first Thursday

STEPPING STONES DROP-IN

Second Friday of every month

2.30 – 4pm

in the Coffee Lounge

The next issue of

Pivot

will be published on

Sunday 3 September 2023

Articles, photographs and other contributions
should be submitted to the editors by

Sunday 6 August 2023

CARERS' GROUP

Second Thursday of every month

2.00 – 4pm

in the Coffee Lounge

